| 1  | BEFORE THE                                      |
|----|---|
| 2  | FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION            |
| 3  |   |
| 4  |   |
| 5  | IN THE MATTER OF: :                             |
| 6  | CONSENT MARKETS, TARIFFS AND RATES - ELECTRIC : |
| 7  | CONSENT MARKETS, TARIFFS AND RATES - GAS :      |
| 8  | CONSENT ENERGY PROJECTS - HYDRO :               |
| 9  | CONSENT ENERGY PROJECTS - CERTIFICATES :        |
| 10 | DISCUSSION ITEMS :                              |
| 11 | STRUCK ITEMS :                                  |
| 12 |   |
| 13 |   |
| 14 | 904TH COMMISSION MEETING                        |
| 15 | OPEN MEETING                                    |
| 16 |   |
| 17 | Commission Meeting Room                         |
| 18 | Federal Energy Regulatory                       |
| 19 | Commission                                      |
| 20 | 888 First Street, N.E.                          |
| 21 | Washington, D.C.                                |
| 22 |   |
| 23 | Thursday, April 20, 2006                        |
| 24 | 10:10 a.m.                                      |
| 25 |   |

| 1  | APPEARANCES:                    |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 2  | COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:          |
| 3  | CHAIRMAN JOSEPH T. KELLIHER     |
| 4  | COMMISSIONER NORA MEAD BROWNELL |
| 5  | COMMISSIONER SUEDEEN G. KELLY   |
| 6  | SECRETARY MAGALIE R. SALAS      |
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| 18 | ALSO PRESENT:                   |
| 19 | DAVID L. HOFFMAN, Reporter      |
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| 1  | PROCEEDINGS  |
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| 2  | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Good morning. This open                   |
| 3  | meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will     |
| 4  | come to order to consider the matters that have been duly    |
| 5  | posted in accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act |
| 6  | for this time and place. Please join us in the Pledge of     |
| 7  | Allegiance.  |
| 8  | (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)                              |
| 9  | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: We really seem to be getting              |
| 10 | that down now.   |
| 11 | (Laughter.)  |
| 12 | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Let me start with a few                   |
| 13 | comments about the blackout in Texas that occurred on        |
| 14 | Monday. This was a serious incident. It affected 200,000     |
| 15 | customers. At the time of the event, there was a             |
| 16 | significant amount of generation that was not available due  |
| 17 | to planned maintenance roughly 20 percent of the             |
| 18 | generation in ERCOT was unavailable due to planned           |
| 19 | maintenance, something like 14,000 megawatts. The weather    |
| 20 | was hotter than expected, about 5 degrees hotter than        |
| 21 | projected, and ultimately the decisive factors seems to be   |
| 22 | unplanned outages. Four units tripped, constituting about    |
| 23 | 1200 megawatts. All available generation resources were      |
| 24 | committed, but no additional resources were available once   |
| 25 | those four units were lost.                                  |

| 1 | Many blackouts are caused by the violation of                |
|---|--|
| 2 | voluntary reliability standards. That's been the case in     |
| 3 | major incidents in the past. At this point, we have no       |
| 4 | assessment at this time whether or not there was a violation |
| 5 | of the reliability standards that occurred in ERCOT on       |
| 6 | Monday. ERCOT is conducting an investigation. The            |
| 7 | Commission Staff are conducting their own analysis, and we   |
| 8 | will be working closely with ERCOT and NERC to understand    |
| 9 | this event.  |

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I just want to make a general point that reliability standards are not yet mandatory. They've actually only recently been proposed to the Commission. Even though they are not yet mandatory, the Commission expects voluntary compliance with reliability standards during this interim period leading up to Commission adoption of final reliability standards.

Let me turn to that subject, reliability standards. As you know, the Commission issued a notice on Tuesday announcing a rulemaking proceeding to address the reliability standards that have been proposed by NERC and developed by NERC. I want to first of all comment on why we're doing this through a rulemaking.

The Commission is proposing to establish reliability standards by rulemaking to facilitation discussions with the Canadians -- our Canadian regulators to

- the north, with their reliability organizations themselves,
- and also with the industry sectors. We think it's important
- 3 that we be able to have meaningful discussions as we're
- 4 looking to adopt reliability standards.
- 5 This process, this rulemaking process, really
- 6 began a number of months ago. The Commission anticipated
- 7 that the Version Zero standards be proposed. We began, a
- 8 number of months ago, studying the Version Zero standards so
- 9 we would be in a good position to act in a timely manner
- 10 once those reliability standards were ultimately proposed to
- 11 the Commission. We're now benefiting from that process
- because we are now in a good position to begin to act.
- 13 What we'll do is in the notice we will issue a
- 14 preliminary assessment of the existing and new reliability
- standards and we will seek public comment on that
- 16 preliminary assessment. That will be the first step we
- 17 take. Then we will have technical conferences again to get
- 18 additional comment on the existing and new reliability
- 19 standards. We will ultimately move to issue a proposed rule
- 20 to adopt the reliability standards that meet the statutory
- 21 standards some time this summer, with a final rule to
- 22 follow.
- The Commission is required to assure that
- 24 reliability standards meet the statutory standards when it
- 25 moves to adopt them. We may ultimately take different

actions on the proposed standards and establish standards we
can conditionally accept or approve, some on an interim
basis or we can remand. And this process we've identified
in the notice will help us decide which in those three areas

we will place the proposed reliability standards.

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Now I want to commend Joe McClellan and I want to commend the Reliability Division for their work developing the preliminary assessment. It will be announced in due course, but I think it is a very good product. I believe we anticipate issuing a proposed rule some time this summer.

Let's turn to some of the recent activities of the Commission. Upcoming action next Monday: we will be holding a joint meeting with the NRC here at the Commission. We had an informal meeting with the NRC some time ago, about two years ago, and now we're having a joint public meeting here at the Commission on Monday.

On September 1st, 2004, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the NRC to facilitate interactions on issues relating to the nation's bulk power system and grid reliability. This MOA was enacted in the wake of the August 14, 2003 blackout. The purpose of this joint meeting on Monday is to continue the discussions we've had with the NRC over time. We're both concerned with reliability of the bulk power grid system. Reliability problems on the bulk power system can affect nuclear plant

- operations and they have affected nuclear plant operations.
- 2 So it's a useful subject for us to explore together.
- Personally, I'd like to understand a little bit
- 4 better how the NRC has dealt with some of the issues that
- 5 we're now confronting. Some of the issues the Commission is
- 6 now confronting are fairly new to us; they're not new to the
- 7 NRC. How do you assure compliance? The NRC, for example,
- 8 established minimum standards to assure adequate protection
- 9 of public health and safety. They also have -- there's a
- 10 private sector organization, INPO, dedicated toward
- 11 promoting excellence in nuclear plant and safety operations.
- How do you both assure compliance and promote
- 13 excellence at the same time? I think we ultimately want to
- have that dynamic in the electric power industry.
- How does the NRC track enforcement and compliance
- 16 with nuclear safety standards? That's something that's
- 17 important to us. Once reliability standards are
- 18 established, it's important for us to assure compliance and
- 19 to adequately enforce them.
- 20 Also, exploring the relationship between NRC and
- 21 INPO. The ERO is a new institution in the electricity
- 22 industry. It's a self-regulating organization. INPO is not
- an exact proxy, but it's a rough proxy. And what is the
- relationship between NRC and INPO? These are at least some
- areas that I want to explore on Monday. I think it will be

1 an interesting meeting.

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On May 18th, the Commission will meet with the market monitors of the regional transmission organizations and independent system operators to receive and discuss presentations on their role in the regional power markets. This meeting will take place following the Commission open meeting on that date. The RTO/ISO market monitors will make presentations about their role as market monitors, their resources and how they're used, and their current market monitoring priorities. The event will certainly be webcast through our website.

Now on April 7th, the Commission held a technical conference and workshop in Scottsdale, Arizona to discuss the standards of conduct for transmission providers. I want to thank Commissioners Brownell and Kelly for joining me in Scottsdale; in fact, they were the ones that encouraged that the meeting be held in the first place. Commissioner Kelly, in particular, encouraged that it be held in the West.

We heard panelists and participants discuss examples and experiences regarding implementation of the standards of conduct vis- -vis the independent functioning requirement, information sharing prohibitions, and integrated resource planning. In one panel, Staff responded to questions submitted before and during the discussion.

These Q and As will guide revisions and supplements to the

| 1 | frequently asked questions on standards of conduct posted on |
|---|--|
| 2 | the Commission's website. The panelists and participants     |
| 3 | described some of the implementation issues that highlight   |
| 4 | the need for the Commission to provide greater clarity so    |
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that industry compliance is as objective as possible.

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One topic we discussed at the meeting was how can we eliminate the gray in the standards of conduct rules.

One of the panelists pointed out -- a very experienced FERC practitioner pointed out at the conference in Scottsdale that he gets more questions that he can't answer on standards of conduct than any other Commission matter. I think he's probably not alone in that respect.

So we want to make compliance with Commission requirements as objective as possible. I don't quite think we're at that point with standards of conduct rules, but hopefully we can move in that direction.

In other recent actions, the Commission -- on April 6th and 7th, the Commission hosted a workshop with the Department of Homeland Security on dam safety and security. The major themes of the workshop were emergency procedures and goals of dam safety and security. The workshop provided an opportunity for the private industry to learn more about dam safety programs and initiatives of both the Department of Homeland Security and the Commission.

Significant progress was made in defining what

- 1 dam owners should put in recovery plans and operation plans 2 which could mitigate the impact of incidents at project Inroads were also made in coordinating initiatives 3 related to dam vulnerabilities for projects in the United
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- States, as well as Canada. 5

before May 15, 2006.

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With regard to recent significant notationals, on 6 7 April 11th, the Commission issued a Notice of Intent to act 8 on petitions from several companies regarding Enron 9 termination payments. In order to process any additional termination payment claims made under Section 1290 of the 10 11 Energy Policy Act of 2005 efficiently and on a comprehensive basis, we requested additional potential applicants, if any, 12 13 file their claims early, along with all supporting documentation and legal arguments as to why they believe 14

Section 1290 applies to their specific contracts on or

I just want to highlight that the decision to act in this area is not a recent one. It's something we began exploring a number of months ago. At the time, there were settlement discussions ongoing and the Commission decided to refrain in order not to interfere with those settlement discussions and let them run their course. It's not a recent decision to act in this area. All we've decided to do is act; we haven't decided what action we will take. Again, on May 15th we will know the universe of potential

| 1  | applicants.   |
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| 2  | Finally I'll make one last point and then ask               |
| 3  | my colleagues if they want to comment on these or other     |
| 4  | areas I'd like to point out that since the March 16th       |
| 5  | open meeting, the Commission has issued 108 notational      |
| 6  | orders. If my math is correct, that's more than 25 a week   |
| 7  | and more than five per day, and I think that really is a    |
| 8  | tribute to the quiet efficiency of the Commission Staff.    |
| 9  | And a lot of those notational orders are pretty significant |
| 10 | matters.  |
| 11 | With that, let me ask my colleagues if they want            |
| 12 | to comment on any of these areas.                           |
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| 1  | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: As we're always                       |
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| 2  | challenged to be more efficient in government, maybe we      |
| 3  | ought to start a little contest with some of our sister      |
| 4  | agencies, to see how many notational orders they're putting  |
| 5  | out on a regular basis.                                      |
| 6  | It might be an interesting new measure of                    |
| 7  | government efficiency.                                       |
| 8  | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Some of our sister agencies,              |
| 9  | when I mentioned that we issued about 1500 orders a year,    |
| 10 | the response is usually a moment of silence.                 |
| 11 | (Laughter.)  |
| 12 | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: They're surprised.                        |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: And we do it relatively               |
| 14 | close to the meetings at hand, too, which is also unique. I  |
| 15 | think we ought to nominate ourselves for some kind of award. |
| 16 | (Laughter.)  |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Just very quickly, I                  |
| 18 | wanted to thank our colleagues in Texas for being so         |
| 19 | effective at communicating with us as events were unfolding. |
| 20 | I think that one of the lessons learned in every             |
| 21 | crisis and we'll learn it from this is that you cannot       |
| 22 | avoid unforeseen circumstances, but we are all better served |
| 23 | by having regular, effective, and quick communications.      |
| 24 | I know that's something that the Commission will             |
| 25 | be looking at in terms of how they analyze what unfolded     |

- 1 here. I look forward to working with them.
- It's easy to jump to conclusions, as we did after
- the blackout, as we do with high gas prices, and, generally,
- 4 those quick conclusions are pretty much wrong. So, I think
- our responsible analysis of what's gone on and what we've
- learned from that, will help us all, and I look forward to
- 7 that.
- I was really -- it's tough to say "excited,"
- 9 about a standards of conduct conference, because that
- 10 suggests that there are some mental health issues going on.
- 11 (Laughter.)
- 12 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: But it is one of those
- areas that's just going to be incremental improvement, and
- it's very painful to hear real-life situations where we have
- not fully understood the business impact of our decisions.
- 16 I appreciate the willingness of the participants
- 17 to stand up and really give us those examples. I think what
- 18 Suedeen and I found in Chicago, which we keep referencing,
- 19 but it's a great model -- if you tell us what the problem
- is, we can fix it. If you stand out in the hall and mumble
- about it, we really can't.
- 22 So, I think that was a very important lesson for
- us to be learned. There are a lot of interesting things
- that you mentioned, but those are the two that stand out for
- 25 me, and so I appreciate it. It was a good effort.

1 Thanks for Phoenix. I think an annual event at that time of year, would work for me. 2 3 COMMISSIONER KELLY: I think that you've covered 4 everything, Joe. I'd like to take this opportunity, though, to thank the Staff, who worked on getting this open meeting 5 6 in place today. 7 It's been a particularly heavy agenda, as we'll see as we come to these cases, and there has been a lot of 8 9 work implementing other sections of EPAct with the PUHCA repeal and the expanded authority under Section 203, the 10 11 accounting standards and forms. It's been very detailed and has taken a lot of 12 13 Staff effort, so I want to thank them for all the work that they've done. 14 15 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: I want to thank the Staff, as well, and my colleagues. We had a grand total one strike 16 since the Sunshine Act Notice, and I think that shows 17 18 efficiency. It also shows a tendency to actually dispose of 19 matters, rather than just discuss them. But we had a couple of near misses, and I want to 20 21 thank Staff for their hard work to help us avoid additional 22 strikes. At least in one case, it 2.3 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: 24 was kind of an unspoken commitment to end the pain, I think.

(Laughter.)

| 1  | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: We were actually talking              |
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| 2  | about the great job Staff has done, and the hard work that's |
| 3  | gone into it, and, candidly, Mr. Chairman, we think it       |
| 4  | deserves more than a cake. We were thinking, at the          |
| 5  | appropriate offsite location, a little champagne would       |
| 6  | probably be a good idea.                                     |
| 7  | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Madam Secretary, let's turn               |
| 8  | to the consent agenda.                                       |
| 9  | SECRETARY SALAS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman;                 |
| 10 | good morning, Commissioners. Mr. Chairman, as you pointed    |
| 11 | out, the one item that has been struck from the agenda since |
| 12 | the issuance of the Sunshine Notice on April 13, was E-16.   |
| 13 | Your consent agenda for this morning is as                   |
| 14 | follows: Electric Items - E-6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,     |
| 15 | 15, 18, and 19.  |
| 16 | Gas Items: G-2 and G-4.                                      |
| 17 | Hydro Items: H-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.                         |
| 18 | Certificates: C-1 and C-2.                                   |
| 19 | And Commissioner Brownell votes first this                   |
| 20 | morning.   |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Aye.                                  |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER KELLY: Aye.                                     |
| 23 | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Aye.                                      |
| 24 | SECRETARY SALAS: The first item for discussion               |
| 25 | this morning is E-2. This is transactions subject to FPA     |

- 1 Section 203. It is a presentation by Andrew Mosier, Phillip
- 2 Nicholson, and Ron Lafferty.
- MR. MOSIER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and
- 4 Commissioners. Before I begin our presentation this
- 5 morning, the Team would like to acknowledge Sarah McClain
- for her contributions to this Draft Order.
- 7 E-2 is an Order on Rehearing, Order No. 669,
- 8 which adopted or modified regulations to implement last
- 9 year's statutory changes to FPA Section 203.
- 10 The Draft Order makes a number of changes to the
- 11 Commission's rulings in Order No. 669, that will further
- 12 facilitate investment in the electric utility industry, and
- that will strengthen the Commission's review of Section 203
- 14 transactions with respect to potential effects involving
- 15 cross-subsidization.
- 16 Among these changes are the following: The Draft
- 17 Order grants a blanket authorization for acquisitions of
- 18 securities, of QFs, EWGs, and FUCOs by holding companies
- 19 that are holding companies solely by virtue of their
- ownership of EWGs, QFs, and FUCOs.
- 21 The Draft Order also should facilitate investment
- 22 by banking-type institutions and financial houses in the
- 23 electric industry, by granting blanket authorization for
- 24 acquisitions of securities under Section 203(a)(2), in
- 25 connection with fiduciary underwriting and hedging

- 1 activities.
- These blanket authorizations would be subject to
- 3 certain conditions and reporting requirements.
- 4 The Draft Order also facilitates the continued
- 5 participation of public utilities in holding company money
- 6 pools, and, therefore, ensures that our regulations do not
- 7 create new barriers to such arrangements.
- 8 However, this participation is subject to the
- 9 companies' implementing adequate safeguards to prevent
- 10 cross-subsidization of non-utility associate companies and
- 11 pledges or encumbrances of utility assets.
- 12 The Draft Orders supplements the verification
- 13 requirement previously applicable to Section 203
- 14 applications that do not receive blanket authorization, with
- a requirement that applicants include four detailed showings
- that the transaction will not result in cross-subsidization
- of non-utility associate companies, and pledges or
- 18 encumbrances of utility assets for the benefit of associate
- 19 companies within a holding company's system.
- 20 If the applicants cannot make these showings,
- 21 they must demonstrate how the transaction is consistent with
- the public interest. That concludes our presentation.
- 23 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: I think that there are
- very important elements in this, that respond to the issues
- 25 that were raised by a number of market participants,

- including Public Power, whose very specific concerns, I
  think, were addressed, on the issues of cross-subsidization,
  which, for me, is going to be one of the biggest challenges
- It's very complicated, it's very hard to find,

  yet it is critically important for customer protections.

that the Commission faces on a going-forward basis.

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I also think that the issue of blanket exemptions to increase investment, reflects a better understanding of the financial industry and their interests, without in any way putting at risk, the interests of the customers.

So, I think, while there are not massive changes here, I think they reflect a good reading of the statutory language and the intent of Congress, which is, after all, what we're all about.

So I appreciate your efforts to really dig down into the comments and understand how we can make changes that responded to concerns, without in any way compromising the intent of the language.

COMMISSIONER KELLY: I add to Nora's comments.

We didn't make many changes, but we've provided a number of clarifications and we've added details that I think makes it quite clear that we are concerned about implementing this new authority and ensuring that there are no cross-subsidizations in holding company mergers, in particular, or acquisitions, unless, for some reason, we find that they are

- in the public interest.
- This is also an evolving area, and it's new
- authority for us under Section 203, and we we've said in
- this final Rule, that we will continue to look at the Rule.
- In particular, we're going to be having a
- 6 technical conference, probably in February, to look at
- 7 several issues that will get the benefit of reviewing with
- 8 some experience behind us.
- 9 One of them is whether blanket authorizations
- that we've granted in this proceeding, should be revised.
- 11 Another is whether additional protection against cross-
- subsidization, and pledges, or encumbrances of utility
- 13 assets, is needed.
- 14 There are a number of commenters that asked us to
- put those kinds of protections in place now. I, for one,
- 16 felt we weren't ready to determine whether they were needed,
- and, if something was needed, what, exactly, it should be.
- 18 Also, we'll be looking at whether the Commission
- 19 needs to revise its current merger policy. There have been
- 20 requests by a number of commenters for us to take into
- 21 account that mergers are bigger and broader, and ask
- 22 ourselves whether existing merger policy is up to the task,
- 23 so we will be considering that at the technical conference,
- 24 and also whether the Commission should codify specific
- 25 safeguards that must be adopted for money pool transactions.

- 1 That was also an area of concern.
- We, again, expect that with six or eight months
- 3 more experience under our belts, we'll have a better take on
- 4 that.
- 5 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Great. Staff explained the
- substance of the Rehearing Order, and I won't belabor that.
- 7 I'd like to explain, really, what I think is the
- 8 significance of the merger rule, as revised by the Rehearing
- 9 Order.
- 10 I'd really start off with the general point that
- 11 the Commission's role in the area of electricity regulation,
- was, I think, succinctly described in the NAACP decision
- where the D.C. Circuit said the Commission's primary task,
- 14 however -- and there is no doubt -- is to quard the consumer
- from exploitation by non-competitive electric power
- 16 companies.
- I think the changes Congress made in the Energy
- 18 Policy Act last year, had that exactly in mind. The
- 19 legislative change is very significant, and it does improve
- our ability to prevent exploitation of the consumer.
- I think what we've done here is faithfully
- 22 execute the merger provisions that had the consumer squarely
- in mind.
- The Energy Policy Act made a number of
- 25 significant changes in the Commission's merger review

- authority: First, it expanded the scope of our Section 203
- 2 authority, to include generation facilities.
- That significantly improves our ability to
- 4 prevent the accumulation of generation market power or
- 5 horizontal market power. That's something I personally have
- 6 supported.
- 7 Actually, I was thinking this morning, going back
- 8 eight years to when I was counsel on the Committee. That
- 9 was one of the things I worked with Cindy Marlette on, eight
- 10 years ago, and it's nice to see it not only finally get into
- 11 the U.S. Code, but now formally, finally, in the
- 12 Commission's Rules.
- 13 The second change was expanding the scope of
- 14 Section 203 to holding company mergers, including the
- acquisition of securities by holding companies and their
- 16 subsidiaries. That has resulted in a significant increase
- in Commission review of holding company securities
- 18 transactions, as reflected in the recent National Grid
- 19 Order.
- 20 A third major change is, the Energy Policy Act
- 21 required the Commission to prevent cross-subsidization at
- the point of a merger. That's an area where I think we also
- 23 faithfully execute the new law with respect to cross-
- subsidization in the Rehearing Order.
- In the Merger Rehearing Order, we strengthen the

- consumer, the customer protection provisions of the Final
  Rule, by adding certain evidentiary showings. We broaden
  some of the blanket authorizations that were in the Final
  Rule, previously granted in the Final Rule, and we granted
- 5 some new blanket authorizations.

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- The Merger Rehearing Order, like the PUHCA appeal
  Rehearing Order, should facilitate investment in the
  electricity industry by traditional utilities, nontraditional utilities, and financial institutions.
- I think we appropriately seek to accommodate
  efficient, day-to-day financial operations of utility
  systems, in both of the Rehearing Orders.
- We also seek to ensure that captive customers of traditional utilities, are protected by guarding against cross-subsidization and pledges and encumbrances of utility assets.
  - I think the biggest change to Order 669, made by the Rehearing Order, relates to how the Commission will prevent cross-subsidization. We will now apply the fourpart test proposed in Order 669 for foreign acquisitions, to domestic mergers and acquisitions.
  - Extending the reach of this four-part test to domestic acquisitions, significantly strengthens customer protection provisions in Order 669, and helps guard against cross-subsidization.

| Т  | In the Renearing Order, we require that all                  |
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| 2  | Section 203 applicants that do not have blanket              |
| 3  | authorizations, include detailed showings that all four      |
| 4  | tests of the four-part framework, are met, or, if cross-     |
| 5  | subsidization or the pledge of encumbrance of utility assets |
| 6  | were to occur, how such cross-subsidization, pledges, or     |
| 7  | encumbrances, would nonetheless be consistent with the       |
| 8  | public interest.   |
| 9  | So I think we've done a good job here. We'll                 |
| 10 | see. Judicial review will ultimately see how good a job      |
| 11 | we've done, but I think we've done a pretty good job. We     |
| 12 | certainly have tried.  |
| 13 | With that, I'm ready to vote. Colleagues?                    |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Aye.                                  |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER KELLY: Aye.                                     |
| 16 | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Aye. Thank you, Staff, that               |
| 17 | was excellent work.  |
| 18 | SECRETARY SALAS: Second for discussion, we will              |
| 19 | take up two items jointly: M-1, Repeal of the Public         |
| 20 | Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, and enactment of the    |
| 21 | Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005; and M-2,         |
| 22 | Financial Accounting, Reporting, and Records Retention       |
| 23 | Requirements under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of |
| 24 | 2005.  |

This is a presentation by Larry Greenfield,

- Abraham Silverman, Jim Guest, Julia Lake, and Steven Hunt.

  MR. GREENFIELD: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners,
- good morning. On August 8th, 2005, the President signed
- 4 into law, the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Title XII of that
- 5 Act repealed the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935,
- and enacted in its place, the Public Utility Holding Company
- 7 Act of 2005.
- 8 On December 8th of last year, the Commission
- 9 issued Order No. 667. As relevant today, that Order did two
- 10 things: First, it adopted regulations to implement the new
- 11 Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005; second, it
- indicated that the Commission intended to initiate a
- 13 separate rulemaking proceeding to address the accounting and
- 14 record retention requirements that would be applicable to
- holding companies and their service companies, and that the
- 16 Commission intended to issue a Final Rule, well before the
- 17 end of this year.
- 18 M-1 on today's agenda, is a Draft Order on
- 19 Rehearing of Order 667. As will be explained at greater
- 20 length by Abe Silverman of the Office of General Counsel,
- 21 this Order responds to the various Requests for Rehearing,
- and, as well, makes a number of clarifying revisions to the
- 23 regulatory text.
- M-2 is the promised Draft Rulemaking on
- accounting and record retention requirements applicable to

1 holding companies and their service companies. As will be 2 explained at greater length by Jim Guest of the Office of 3 Enforcement, it proposes a new Uniform System of Accounts, 4 based on our own existing Uniform System of Accounts, as well as the SEC's Uniform System of Accounts that will be 5 applicable to the centralized service companies. 6 7 It further proposes new record retention requirements that would be applicable to both holding 8 9 companies and their service companies, and it proposes revisions to the existing FERC Form No. 60, the Annual 10 11 Report already required to be filed by centralized service companies to conform to the new Uniform System of Accounts. 12 With this introduction, I will turn the matter 13 over to Mr. Silverman and Mr. Guest. 14 15 MR. SILVERMAN: Good morning. In M-1, the Draft Order affirms most of the key determinations of Order No. 16 17 667. However, the Draft Order also grants rehearing on 18 several issues. 19 Most of the changes are designed to give guidance 20 to companies on how to comply with the new PUHCA 2005 regulations. 21 Under Order No. 667, many holding companies are 22 granted either an exemption from the federal books and 23 records provisions of PUHCA and the Commission's PUHCA 24

regulations, and will receive a Commission-granted waiver of

- 1 the books and records regulations.
- The Draft Order on Rehearing clarifies the
- 3 procedures that different types of holding companies must
- 4 use, in order to claim either the exemption or the waiver.
- As required by PUHCA 2005, Order 667 grants
- 6 holding companies owning only exempt wholesale generators,
- 7 qualifying facilities, foreign utility companies, or any
- 8 combination of the three, an exemption from the federal
- 9 books and records provisions of PUHCA 2005, as well as the
- 10 Commission's PUHCA regulations.
- 11 The Draft Order on Rehearing clarifies that such
- entities are, indeed, holding companies under the
- 13 Commission's Regulations, but that they receive an automatic
- exemption from PUHCA 2005 and the Commission's books and
- 15 recordkeeping requirements.
- 16 The Draft Order on Rehearing also clarifies that
- 17 those holding companies do not need to make any additional
- 18 filings with the Commission in order to take advantage of
- 19 the automatic exemption.
- 20 Order No. 667 also grants a waiver to holding
- 21 companies operating substantially within a single state.
- The Draft Order on Rehearing clarifies that a holding
- company will qualify for the single-state holding company
- system waiver, when no more than 13 percent of its revenues
- 25 attributable to its public utility company operations, are

- derived from outside a single state.
- 2 This is consistent with the test applied by the
- 3 SEC for the intrastate holding company exemption under the
- 4 1935 Act. The Draft Order on Rehearing also contains the
- 5 following new consumer safeguards:
- 6 Order No. 667 provides that a company may not
- 7 rely on any exemption or wavier, if the facts surrounding
- 8 its exemption or waiver change.
- 9 The Draft Order on Rehearing would now require
- 10 holders of an exemption or waiver, to notify the Commission
- 11 within 30 days, whenever there is a change of material fact
- that may affect the exemption or waiver.
- The Draft Order on Rehearing also imposes and
- 14 additional reporting requirement on special-purpose service
- 15 companies that are selling non-power goods and services or
- 16 construction services to public utilities.
- 17 Specifically, the Draft Order on Rehearing
- 18 requires any service company that is not required to file
- the more detailed annual FERC Form 60, to file a narrative
- description, describing what the service company does.
- 21 As service companies continue to evolve, this
- 22 requirement will allow the Commission to monitor changes in
- 23 the industry, and to take further action, if necessary.
- 24 Finally, the Draft Order on Rehearing continues
- 25 to emphasize that nothing in the Public Utility Holding

1 Company Act of 2005, diminishes the Commission's authority under the Natural Gas Act or Federal Power Act, to gain access to holding companies' and service companies' books 3 4 and records, and to ensure just and reasonable rates. 5 I'll now turn over the presentation to Jim Guest, who will discuss M-2. 6 7 MR. GUEST: Before I move further into the presentation, I would like to first acknowledge and thank 8 9 the individuals who worked so hard in developing the NOPR for Commission consideration this morning. 10 11 They are: Rosemary Womack, Steven Hunt, Brian Holmes, Julie Kuhns, Mary Lauerman, and Janice Garrison-12 Nicholas, all of the Office of Enforcement; as well as Linda 13 Patterson from the Office of Administrative Litigation, and 14 15 Julia Lake and Larry Greenfield of the Office of General Counsel. 16 In Order No. 667, the Commission prescribed 17 18 uniform accounting and reporting requirements for 19 centralized service companies within holding company systems, and records retention requirements for both service 20 21 companies and holding companies. 22 In that Order, the Commission announced its intention to modify the existing Uniform System of Accounts 2.3

for public utilities and licensees and natural gas

companies, to accommodate centralized service companies' use

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- of those systems.
- The Commission also announced its intention to similarly modify the existing records retention requirements
- 4 that are contained in Parts 125 and 225 of the Commission's
- 5 Regulations.
- 6 Since the issuance of Order No. 667, the Staff
- 7 has examined in greater depth, some of the implementation
- 8 issues associated with revising the Commission's existing
- 9 Uniform System of Accounts and records retention
- 10 requirements for public utilities and licensees, and for
- 11 natural gas companies, to cover the service companies and
- the holding companies.
- In doing so, the Staff concluded that modifying
- 14 the existing accounting and records retention requirements
- to accommodate the service companies and holding companies,
- 16 would make understanding and applying the accounting and
- 17 records retention requirements, difficult for users of those
- 18 systems.
- Therefore, the Staff recommends, and this Notice
- of Proposed Rulemaking reflects adding a new Uniform System
- of Accounts for centralized service companies in Part 367 of
- the Commission's Regulations, adding records retention
- 23 requirements for holding companies and service companies in
- new Part 368, revising Form No. 60, the Annual Report for
- 25 Centralized Service Companies, to provide for reporting

| 1 | consistent with the proposed Uniform System of Accounts,    |
|---|---|
| 2 | including the Form 60 filing requirements in a new Part 369 |
| 3 | and also providing for electronic filing of the Form 60.    |

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In developing the proposed regulations, Staff was guided by three overarching objectives: First, the new accounting and records retention requirements, should mirror the existing requirements contained in Parts 101, 201, 125, and 225 of the Commission's Regulations for Public Utilities and Natural Gas Companies, to the maximum extent practicable, but should exclude those provisions that are not relevant to centralized service companies.

Second, the new accounting requirements should allow for the consolidation of service company financial information with the financial information of associate public utilities and licensees and natural gas companies, as needed for stockholder and SEC reporting.

Third, the new Uniform System of Accounts for Centralized Service Companies should include requirements that reflect aspects of business operations that are unique to those service companies.

While these new regulations appear lengthy, we believe the detail will actually make it simpler and easier for service companies and holding companies to comply with our requirements.

These regulations are proposed to be made

1 effective, January 1, 2007. In addition, the Notice of 2 Proposed Rulemaking directs Staff to hold a technical 3 conference to provide interested parties an opportunity to 4 discuss the proposed regulations. This concludes our joint presentation. Staff is 5 6 available for any questions. 7 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Thank you. First of all, I want to recognize the hard work of the PUHCA team. I still 8 9 find it odd that repealing a 70-year old law, engendered 10 more public comment than erecting a whole new reliability institution, but it did. 11 There are over 2,000 pages of comments as of last 12 13 February, and I don't know what the grand total ended up being, with respect to PUHCA repeal. But you've had a lot 14 15 of work to do, and I think you did it very well. I want to thank you for your very complete description of the 16 Rehearing Order. 17 18 Given the extent of public interest, it's appropriate that your presentation was as complete as it 19 20 was. Let me just make a few general comments. 21 22 think I could add to your description of the substance of the Rehearing Order, but the Rehearing Order recognizes that 23 24 the clear Congressional intent in this area is to repeal the

regulatory regime established by the '35 Act.

| 1  | Congressional intent really couldn't be any more             |
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| 2  | clear. The title of Subtitle F of the Energy Policy Act of   |
| 3  | 2005, is simply "Repeal of PUHCA."                           |
| 4  | Congress wanted to eliminate that entire                     |
| 5  | regulatory regime. Although Subtitle F does establish a new  |
| 6  | PUHCA 2005, it is a quite different and quite reduced regime |
| 7  | than the '35 Act.  |
| 8  | That somehow hasn't really been broadly                      |
| 9  | recognized, but PUHCA 2005 is really just a pale shadow of   |
| 10 | what the '35 Act was.  |
| 11 | Now, the Rehearing Order does improve and clarify            |
| 12 | the Commission's new regulations for implementing the        |
| 13 | Commission's new authorities concerning access to books and  |
| 14 | records of holding companies and other companies in holding  |
| 15 | company systems and our review and authorization of the      |
| 16 | allocation of costs for non-power goods and services.        |
| 17 | The PUHCA repeal Rehearing Order should                      |
| 18 | facilitate investment in the electricity industry by         |
| 19 | traditional utilities, nontraditional utilities, and         |
| 20 | financial institutions.                                      |
| 21 | It also should accommodate efficient day-to-day              |
| 22 | financial operations of utility systems, while assuring that |
| 23 | captive customers are protected.                             |
| 24 | There is overlap between the merger review                   |
| 25 | Rehearing Order and the PUHCA Rehearing Order. That's why    |

| 1  | we're taking them both up here at the same time.             |
|----|--|
| 2  | As to the two Orders, there's at least a dotted-             |
| 3  | line relationship between the two, and I think we recognize  |
| 4  | that.  |
| 5  | Contemporaneously with issuing the Rehearing                 |
| 6  | Order, we are issuing new proposed rules on accounting and   |
| 7  | record retention requirements. Those are necessary for       |
| 8  | implementing repeal of the '35 Act and implementation of     |
| 9  | PUHCA 2005.  |
| 10 | These proposed rules will supplement the                     |
| 11 | Commission's existing customer protection efforts. In the    |
| 12 | PUHCA repeal Rehearing Order, we find that many of the       |
| 13 | rehearing requests address issues beyond the scope of the    |
| 14 | very limited authority granted the Commission under PUHCA    |
| 15 | 2005, and that concern matters that we believe are better    |
| 16 | handled under our existing legal authority.                  |
| 17 | Other matters raised on rehearing, the Commission            |
| 18 | does acknowledge and make certain revisions, clarifications, |
| 19 | or indicates that we'll address them at a future technical   |
| 20 | conference, but, again, I just want to commend you for your  |
|    |  |

hard work in this area. I think it's a good product.

| Т  | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Hard to add, except from              |
|----|--|
| 2  | the wonderfully-detailed presentation and your comments, Mr  |
| 3  | Chairman, that the world might look at the 268 page M2       |
| 4  | proposal and think that in fact we're reinventing the wheel  |
| 5  | I would only propose that as complicated as much of this     |
| 6  | sounds, it does pull from our existing Uniform System of     |
| 7  | Accounts, it does call for technical conferences to make     |
| 8  | sure we're getting it right, and it think it does harmonize  |
| 9  | the various elements in a way that, in spite of the          |
| 10 | perception that it looks complicated, in fact should make    |
| 11 | life simpler. If it doesn't, we'll need to look at ways to   |
| 12 | streamline it. But under the new responsibilities, I think   |
| 13 | it does get us to a place where we can fulfill our new       |
| 14 | obligations while making it easier for businesses to address |
| 15 | the new requirements.  |
| 16 | I think that the first reaction of people is                 |
| 17 | going to be oh my God, once again, they've complicated our   |
| 18 | world. But I think, on the contrary, it has just the         |
| 19 | opposite effect once it gets implemented. I thank the team   |
| 20 | who worked on this. I appreciate what you do when I look at  |
| 21 | orders like these, because I couldn't possibly do this for a |
| 22 | living.  |
| 23 | (Laughter.)  |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Thank you for sorting it              |
| 25 | all out.   |

1 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Being a lawyer by trade,
2 I've been trained to try and encapsulate what we're doing or
3 what my client is doing in a sentence or two and to also
4 make that sentence one that will engage the audience and be
5 memorable. That's been a big challenge, with trying to
6 encapsulate --

(Laughter.)

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COMMISSIONER KELLY: -- in one sentence what we're doing here. But since I had so much fun trying to achieve that, I'm going to repeat it. But I failed miserably in trying to phrase it in a way that will engage you or otherwise be memorable. But what we're doing here is looking at the primary requirement of the new PUHCA, which is that all holding companies and their associate companies maintain books and records and make them available to FERC. That's what these forms are about, how to do it in a good way. But that's a very broad requirement applying to all holding companies and associate companies.

So the legislation also said -- the legislation acknowledges that there are some holding company entities and there are some holding company transactions that are not relevant to the rates of wholesale customers, which is what our jurisdiction's about. So Congress basically said although we have this broad requirement that all holding companies and their associates maintain all books and

| 1  | records, you need to figure out which kinds of holding       |
|----|--|
| 2  | companies and which kinds of transactions should be exempt   |
| 3  | from that requirement, because what they're doing is not     |
| 4  | relevant to your jurisdiction.                               |
| 5  | So that's what we're doing. We're trying to                  |
| 6  | figure out what those exemptions are for the holding         |
| 7  | companies and for the transactions. And it's taken a lot of  |
| 8  | work. It's required Staff to get into the weeds. It's        |
| 9  | required the Commissioners and the Commissioners' staff to   |
| 10 | get into the weeds. We've done that and I'm very proud of    |
| 11 | the work that you've done. I think that we have, in this     |
| 12 | order, fulfilled our obligation to ensure that the books and |
| 13 | records that need to be maintained will be in a very         |
| 14 | efficient way. The ones that don't have to be, won't have    |
| 15 | to be.   |
| 16 | But I would like to also mention that our                    |
| 17 | authority under other provisions of the Federal Power Act    |
| 18 | and the Natural Gas Act will enable us to get to specific    |
| 19 | books and records, if we need to, on a case-by-case basis.   |
| 20 | So thank you very much for all your hard work.               |
| 21 | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Great. Shall we vote?                     |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Aye.                                  |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER KELLY: Aye.                                     |
| 24 | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Aye.                                      |

Thank you.

| 1  | SECRETARY SALAS: Next for discussion is E-4, PJM            |
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| 2  | Interconnection, LLC. This is a presentation by Susanna     |
| 3  | Erlich, John McPherson, Anna Cochrane, Tatyana Kramskaya,   |
| 4  | David Mead, and Chris Wilson.                               |
| 5  | MS. ERLICH: Good morning, Chairman Kelliher,                |
| 6  | Commissioner Brownell, Commissioner Kelly. I'm Susanna      |
| 7  | Erlich of the Office of the General Counsel. With me today  |
| 8  | at the table are Anna Cochrane, David Mead, John McPherson, |
| 9  | Tatyana Kramskaya from the Office of Energy Markets and     |
| 10 | Reliability and, from the Office of General Counsel, Chris  |
| 11 | Wilson.   |
| 12 | Also making major contributions to this team are            |
| 13 | Michael Goldenberg, Katherine Waldbauer from the Office of  |
| 14 | General Counsel, and Daniel Nowak, Deborah Ott, and Dionne  |
| 15 | Thompson from the Office of Energy Markets and Reliability  |
| 16 | PJM is responsible for ensuring the reliability             |
| 17 | of its system and currently administers the capacity        |
| 18 | obligations of its load-serving entities. According to PJM, |
| 19 | the limitations of its current capacity construct will      |
| 20 | result in multiple reliability criteria violations in       |
| 21 | eastern PJM, particularly in New Jersey, the Delmarva       |
| 22 | Peninsula, and the Washington/Baltimore area as early as    |
| 23 | 2006. PJM also anticipates that other parts of the PJM area |
| 24 | are trending in this same direction.                        |
|    |   |

PJM has identified two principal deficiencies in

- its current capacity construct hindering long-term
- 2 reliability. These deficiencies are the lack of a long-term
- 3 forward capacity commitment and a lack of locational
- 4 capacity pricing. Because of these deficiencies, PJM argues
- 5 the current construct does not provide meaningful price
- 6 signals to sustain long-term investment in capacity
- 7 resources.
- 8 At this point, John McPherson will highlight some
- 9 of the findings of the order for you today.
- 10 MR. MC PHERSON: The draft order before you finds
- that, as a result of a combination of the above-mentioned
- factors and other considerations, PJM's existing capacity
- 13 construct is unjust and unreasonable as a long-term capacity
- 14 solution. Further, the draft provides Commission guidance
- regarding PJM's proposed reliability pricing model, or RPM,
- which PJM offers as a replacement for the current capacity
- 17 construct. It also finds that with some adjustments and
- 18 clarification the RPM proposal may form the basis for a just
- 19 and reasonable capacity market. The draft guidance order
- also establishes a technical conference and a paper hearing
- 21 to address remaining issues before the Commission can issue
- 22 a final order on the RPM proposal. Finally, the draft order
- 23 encourages parties to negotiate a resolution of the RPM
- 24 proposal.
- In this order, the Commission makes the following

- findings with respect to the elements of the RPM proposal:
- locational capacity markets. The draft order finds that the
- 3 capacity construct must reflect locational values of
- 4 capacity. It proposes to establish a paper hearing to
- 5 determine the best method for ensuring that the locational
- 6 capacity markets reflect transmission constraints within
- 7 PJM.

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Forward procurement. The draft order accepts

9 PJM's proposal to require four-year forward procurement of

10 capacity and sets for paper hearing the duration of such

11 commitments.

Integration of generation demand response and transmission. The draft order finds that RPM adequately integrates demand response resources and it encourages PJM to work with its regional transmission expansion planning process to coordinate transmission planning with the capacity market and would require PJM to report to the Commission with respect to such coordination mechanism for acquiring capacity.

The draft order finds it appropriate to allow dual methods for load-serving entities to satisfy capacity obligations and establishes a technical conference to further explore certain aspects of these approaches. Load-serving entities would have the option of satisfying the capacity obligations by either, one, participating in PJM's

proposed capacity auction that relies on a downward-sloping demand curve or, two, choose an alternative to the forward procurement auction if they identify sufficient capacity to meet their loads which capacity is physically deliverable and which is under contract to the LSE or under the LSE's ownership or control in advance of the forward procurement auction.

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Mitigation. The draft order defers ruling on PJM's market power mitigation proposal. While the draft order acknowledges that market power may be a concern within RPM, the draft order establishes a paper hearing to further explore whether mitigation is necessary and, if so, what mitigation measures are appropriate.

This concludes our presentation.

CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Thank you.

I think that the Staff and Commissioners have really done a good job given the record that they have of making some tough cuts. Capacity markets constructs seem to come with a fair amount of emotional and political baggage, but I think here we have the opportunity to take this as a starting point and to work towards resolution of the remaining issues. And, to the extent that there continues to be disagreement on the cuts that we've made to somehow bring those to resolution, I think the items that we have

set for hearing or technical conference bear further development.

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I would suggest the locational proposal that was

made in terms of a transition could end up being more

complex than the market can bear in a market that has a

tremendous amount of complexity and, in terms of being

supported by IT costs, which we've all become increasingly

aware about, I think needs further development.

The demand curve is always a thing of voodoo, but I think a technical conference can answer people's questions. That's an element that can work.

I would encourage the parties to continue toward resolution. This is not a decision for a new model that can be put off indefinitely. Some would argue it's two or three years too late. I think we've done the responsible thing in making some cuts; we can do the responsible thing and continue to do that if the parties can't come to resolution.

We do our best to support and encourage effective resolution of those, but I think we will need to make decisions, because I don't want to come as precariously close as we have in other parts of the country. Capacity constructs in and of themselves are artificial answers where we don't, in fact, have fully developed markets without mitigation. That's the price we're paying.

For those who are continuing to propose

alternatives like energy-only markets, I think that's a great idea if you are prepared to take the political repercussions of what that means in terms of economics and price signals to customers. I don't necessarily agree over time that that's where we need to go, but when you look at the consequences of the lifting of price caps in Maryland and the political reaction to what actual prices are, I think you have to say perhaps we're not willing to make that decision. So while that's an interesting concept, it's not one that seems to me that's particularly productive to continue to pursue and throw on the table without a willingness to get the buy-in from the people who have to answer the questions to consumers.

So I'm really pleased at how far this has come, but I think it needs to go further faster. And while we've allowed process, we can't afford to use the process to continue to avoid to make tough difficult decisions. Nobody wants to buy the insurance policy, as you point out, until the house burns down, the car crashes or if you die and then you don't like it. But that's what this fundamentally is and that's what we need to do.

I also continue to have reservations about mitigation upon mitigation upon mitigation. Market power is an issue. We saw some exercise of market power in the old capacity construct at PJM. But is it mitigation to deal

with market power or is it mitigation because we just have grown enamored with mitigation because we don't want to do the tough stuff? That's my take on this. But good step forward, but let's take some other quick steps. No more baby steps in PJM on capacity markets.

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significant big step on the road to evolving an electricity market in PJM that efficiently and effectively meets the demands of PJM's customers. In this case we're talking about their demand for long-term electric capacity. The draft order finds that the current non-locational capacity construct is no longer just and reasonable basically because it's the case in PJM that not all participating generation can reach all the load throughout the PJM region, which I think can fairly be said to be massive today. Yet they're currently all priced the same as though they can meet. So prices for capacity that are set equal based on the idea that all participating generation is physically deliverable when it actually isn't are appropriately found to be unjust and unreasonable and that's what we do today.

Furthermore, setting just and reasonable rates for capacity is an important effort with very far-reaching results, because if prices are too high more generation could be built than is needed. On the other hand, perhaps even of more importance today, if the prices are too low,

not enough generation will be built. In that case, we risk serious consequences ranging from the merely unpleasant -- such as increased rates for energy -- to the downright disruptive and possibly dangerous such as brownouts and blackouts. And obviously the issue must be addressed.

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That's what we've attempted to do in this order to provide guidance on addressing this issue, to narrow the focus to the elements of the capacity construct that need to be focused on. And I want to stress that this draft order proposes to address this in a way that's consistent with and respects traditional state jurisdiction over generation.

One example of this is the opt-out findings in this order, which will ultimately permit any company that can prove that it can meet its own capacity needs over a reasonable period of time to opt-out of PJM's capacity construct. That will be a choice that's made by each utility in connection with its state regulators.

I think it's appropriate that we gave our nod of approval to that provision. Our job here at the Commission is to get in place a system that works, provides for long-term capacity at just and reasonable rates for those who choose not to opt-out. I'd like to thank Staff for their work on this. I think that we hit the right note on providing guidance without overprescribing what needs to be done.

| 1   | Thanks.  |
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| 2   | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: I also want to thank Staff as             |
| 3   | well. We acted on this more quickly than I would have        |
| 4   | anticipated, to be honest. I know it's due to the hard work  |
| 5   | of the Staff and also the way the three offices worked       |
| 6   | together on this order. I think the merits of the order and  |
| 7   | the substance of the order has already been described, and I |
| 8   | really won't go over that. But I will talk about at least    |
| 9   | my general views on capacity markets and resource adequacy.  |
| _0  | In this order, though, the Commission, as Staff              |
| .1  | has indicated, finds that the current PJM capacity market is |
| .2  | unjust and unreasonable and we find its unjust and           |
| _3  | unreasonable because it doesn't support continued generation |
| .4  | entry. It's frankly not very difficult to reach this         |
| -5  | conclusion. A new generator investing in PJM cannot expect   |
| -6  | to recover its costs through energy and capacity revenues.   |
| .7  | That's really the nut of the problem.                        |
| -8  | That wouldn't really have any import if there                |
| .9  | wasn't a need to build generation anywhere in PJM, but there |
| 20  | is. That need was made plain very dramatically at the        |
| 21  | technical conference the Commission held in February. The    |
| 22  | visual about reliability violations in eastern PJM occurring |
| 23  | as early as this year really made the case that there is a   |
| 0.4 | need to increase generation in eastern PJM                   |

Under the current capacity construct, generation

additions in eastern PJM are valued the same as in the areas of PJM with surpluses. Not only will generation additions in PJM slow to a crawl, it's possible that retirements may actually outpace generation additions for a net loss of electricity supply. That is the situation that confronted California leading up to the western electricity crisis in the year 2000.

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The Commission has a legal duty to assure just and reasonable wholesale power rates. That doesn't mean we have to guarantee the profitability of generators or new entrants, and that is not what we're doing here today.

But a capacity market that does not recognize the existence of transmission constraints or that those transmission constraints are getting worse and a capacity market that places no value on locating generation where it's most badly needed and that produces shortages and serious reliability problems is simply not just and reasonable. The Commission does have a duty as well to assure reliability. Doing nothing in the fact of imminent serious reliability violations is just simply not an option.

I want to highlight the approach we're taking here and compare and contrast it to the two approaches that we took in New England. In June 2004, we issued a New England LICAP order that adopted a particular approach towards capacity markets in New England. We made merit

- calls really up and down the line. That led to a great deal
- of criticism of the Commission that we were ignoring
- 3 workable alternatives that were being advanced in New
- 4 England. I think it's probably fair to say we could call
- 5 this approach LICAP-1 just for full disclosure. I voted for
- 6 LICAP-1. I voted for the June 2004 order.
- We heard the region's criticism particularly last
- 8 summer and we changed course. We held oral argument in
- 9 September. We encouraged parties to reach consensus. We
- 10 encouraged settlement. I think the oral argument was very
- 11 helpful. There was really universal recognition in the
- region that the status quo was failing, that the region was
- facing an imminent serious electricity problem and that the
- 14 status quo was failing to address that problem. There's
- also universal recognition that there is a need for the
- 16 Commission to act.
- 17 There was a problem, it wasn't going away, and
- 18 ultimately the Commission would have to solve the problem.
- 19 We told the region that we recognized there was more than
- one way to structure a just and reasonable capacity market.
- 21 We challenged New England to come around around a workable
- 22 alternative. The region rose to the challenge. They asked
- the Commission to appoint a settlement judge to facilitate a
- 24 settlement. We did just that and, by all accounts, Judge
- 25 Brenner did a tremendous job.

This approach, developing a consensus that the status quo is failing, encouraging a region to control its own destiny, to develop a workable alternative that is just and reasonable while preparing to act independently if the region fails, I would call this approach LICAP II. That's ultimately the course we decided on last fall.

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That approach produced a settlement that's now before the Commission. Most of the hundred parties joined in the settlement, although there are some significant nonsettling parties. Of course, we can't address the merits of the proposed settlement, but one reason I think a settlement was reached in New England was the recognition that the region took the Commission seriously when we said we would act if they did not develop a regional alternative. accepted that we would act and they decided it was in their interest to have greater control over the process by developing a workable alternative in lieu of independent Commission action. We're prepared to act in PJM as well, but the approach we're taking today I think is modeled on LICAP II rather than LICAP I. I hope that distinction is recognized.

The Commission strongly encourages each region to develop a solution that fits its particular circumstances with respect to capacity markets and resource adequacy. We recognize resource adequacy traditionally has been a state

responsibility and we, therefore, encourage the states to
play a leading role in developing regional solutions to
regional problems. Although the Commission will encourage
consensus, we will not ignore the problem and hope that it

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goes away.

The lack of investment that we're seeing

currently in many markets will not self-correct. In areas

facing tight supply where there's no long-term obligation to

serve, energy prices are capped and capacity markets are

flawed. The only question really is when and where supply

problems will appear, not whether they will occur.

And I think I'm committed and I'm sure my colleagues are committed to addressing and resolving these problems. Resource adequacy is one of the most difficult issues facing the Commission. It's difficult in part because of the substance; the issues are very difficult. It also involves the interplay between capacity markets and market mitigation, energy markets. So on the substance it's a very difficult issue.

There's also various ways to encourage continued entry of new generation. One is through greater use of long-term contracts, but the Commission role is very limited here. We traditionally have authority over wholesale sellers and sales. We do not regulate wholesale buyers.

We, as a general matter, cannot compel a wholesale buyer to

- enter into a long-term power purchase agreement. States
  have that authority; we do not.
- My wife was kidding me -- I made some statements
  saying that I had deep personal affection for long-term
  contracts at a regional conference, and she was jealous of
  that.

7 (Laughter.)

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CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: I do have deep affection for long-term contracts. It's a reasonable way to support the development of long-term infrastructure. But we cannot compel buyers to enter into long-term contracts. I think we want to be careful. Whatever approach we take on capacity markets certainly does not foreclose long-term contracts; if anything, we want to make sure that we continue to encourage them.

Resource adequacy is also difficult because of jurisdiction. Neither federal nor state regulators have perfect jurisdiction in this area, and since neither of us has adequate authority to address issues alone, we have to collaborate.

I just want to end by encouraging the PJM region to develop a solution to the problem that is facing it as soon as this summer, and we will certainly place a great deal of weight on a workable alternative advanced by the region.

1 That's probably more than I intended to say, but 2 I am ready to vote if my colleagues are. Shall we? COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: I'm a little worried 3 4 about the long-term affection --(Laughter.) 5 6 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: I'll be chatting with 7 your wife. CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: She reminded me that I once 8 9 said that I love hydro law as well. 10 (Laughter.) PRESIDING JUDGE: My two mistresses are Part I of 11 the Federal Power Act and the long-term contracts. 12 It could 13 be worse. 14 (Laughter.) 15 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Yeah, and you could be giving discourses on capacity markets for the rest of your 16 life, but I hoped better for you, Joe. 17 18 (Laughter.) 19 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Aye. 20 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Aye. 21 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: 22 Thank you. SECRETARY SALAS: Next for discussion is E-3, 23 24 Entergy Services. This is a presentation by Christy Walsh, 25 Peter Nagler, and Steve Rodgers.

1 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: You look remarkably fresh, I 2 have to say. 3 (Laughter.) 4 MS. WALSH: I don't know what any of you are talking about. 5 6 (Laughter.) 7 MS. WALSH: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, 8 Commissioners. My name is Christy Walsh. With me are Steve 9 Rodgers and Peter Nagler. I'd also like to thank Amy Demetrious and Sanjeev Jagtiani on this order. 10 11 This draft order approves, with certain modifications, proposed revisions to Entergy's open access 12 transmission tariff to establish an independent coordinator 13 of transmission, or ICT, for the Entergy system and a weekly 14 15 procurement process. In this draft order, the Commission also approves 16 with modification Entergy's transmission price proposal 17 which, under certain circumstances, would allow transmission 18 19 customers to be charged costs associated with supplemental 20 upgrades but would ensure that these customers receive 21 meaningful rights that protect them from cost of congestion. 22 The approval of the entire package of the ICT, the weekly procurement process and Entergy's pricing 23 24 proposal is predicated in part on Entergy's representations

of the substantial benefits associated with the weekly

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1 procurement process, as discussed in the draft order. order finds that Entergy's ICT proposal is intended to approve transparency of transmission information, enhance transmission access, and relieve transmission congestion.

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Entergy's proposal is that the ICT, among other things, will grant or deny requests for transmission service, calculate available flowgate capability, administer Entergy's open access same-time information system, and perform an enhanced planning function. The weekly procurement process is designed to allow merchant generation and other wholesale suppliers to compete to serve Entergy's native load customers through bids submitted to Entergy's weekly operations. It also establishes an additional mechanism for granting short-term firm transmission service through redispatch.

The results of the weekly procurement process optimization will be treated as requests for new point-topoint transmission service and the designation of new network resources, including offers of redispatch needed to grant the new service. Entergy represents the ICT will review these requests and grant or deny transmission service under the OATT.

Our approval of Entergy's ICT proposal is conditioned on Entergy committing not to file to seek a termination date for the ICT agreement that is within the

- first four years of ICT operation. During this four-year
  period, in order to measure whether there are improvements
  to transmission access and service under the ICT, the
  Commission requires regular reporting by the ICT. In this
  draft order, the Commission sets out specific metrics by
  which it will evaluate the ICT and weekly procurement
- which it will evaluate the it and weekly proturement

7 process for the four-year term.

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regular meetings with the affected state commissions to discuss the ICT reports soon after they're issued. Such meetings will ensure that the Commission receives feedback we need to gauge the effectiveness of the ICT and the weekly procurement process. Meetings with our fellow regulators should also help reach consensus on whether the ICT and the weekly procurement process have been successful and should be continued beyond the initial period.

COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Christy, could you elaborate a little bit about the metrics that we're going to use to evaluate how successful that is and say a little bit about some of the customer involvement provisions that we've included, like the users group and things like that?

MS. WALSH: The order provides there will be a users group that will inform the ICT on matters involving transmission access and what will go into the ICT's determination about granting and denying transmission

1 service.

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In addition, the Commission is provided specific metrics for evaluating ICT. We're going to be looking at the cost savings the ICT and the weekly procurement process produces. If the number of complaints the Commission receives about Entergy's transmission access are diminished and making sure that the system is transparent.

COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Aren't we also going to ask for regular reports on data lost?

A continuing problem in Entergy -- a mysterious one, albeit a continuing problem, accuracy of data, those kinds of things, that have been issues in the past.

MR. RODGERS: Yes, that's correct, Commissioner. Specifically, the order directs that there's going to be measurements and periodic reports provided regarding whether Entergy has lost data, how many times, if any, users of the system were given inaccurate or incomplete data, how often Energy uses inaccurate modeling assumptions, if any, how frequently there are failures to timely post or provide required data or posting of inaccurate data, the number of times transmission users complained that available flowgate capability is not available, the number of times that available AFC when needed is different from what was posted on OASIS, and the length of time it takes to do interconnection or transmission service studies.

COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Thank you. I think this is important for me. This order truly represents the triumph of hope over experience. Samuel Johnson said that about his second marriage. This actually would be our third time at bat with our friends at Entergy in trying to respond to many, many, many complaints.

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I appreciate the patience of both the Staff and my colleagues, particularly -- for me, I have to tell you, this is a vote of conscience. When I was going through this order and struggling with how to build in the transparency that I think we built in, the customer protections I think we built in, the assurance of the independence of the ICT -- which I hope we've built in -- and a number of other things, I can only think about the hundred thousand people who live in Lafayette who are regularly paying more for generation because they have to back down their cheaper generation in order to address transmission constraints and the fragility of the Entergy transmission system.

I can only think about the frustration of the commissions, particularly Louisiana, who time and time again has asked Entergy why it is their customers -- some of the poorest in the nation -- cannot get access to the cheaper generation that's there. I can only think of Dow Chemical and Oxy and the Louisiana Users' Group who are struggling in global markets to keep their businesses in Louisiana and

1 Mississippi and other parts of the Entergy system but who 2 cannot get any assurances that they, too, will have access 3 to cheaper generation.

And I think of what has gone on in Louisiana and Mississippi and the importance to the economies there as they rebuild to have a better system, to have access to cheaper generation, to have a transmission system that can really serve what I hope is a vibrant future but will not be a vibrant future unless there is a serious commitment on the part of Entergy to, at this third time at bat, make this work.

I'm glad we have metrics because, frankly, I think in my mind three strikes and you're out. I can't think of another industry who would have these kinds of problems that we've been dealing with almost since the time I got here -- and you'll see a very painful history in the opening part of this market. I can't think of anybody else who would keep their franchise under these circumstances.

So as we move forward, I would hope that the company embraces this with a sense of urgency and their own sense of conscience of what they owe the customers who have allowed them to have this franchise. Thank you for your hard work and thank you for your patience and tolerance. As I said, this really does represent the triumph of hope over experience, and I hope that for once the hope wins.

| 1  | Thank you.   |
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| 2  | COMMISSIONER KELLY: Thank you, Nora.                         |
| 3  | As the draft order makes clear, what we're really            |
| 4  | doing here is approving an interdependent package of three   |
| 5  | elements and three reforms: the independent coordinator of   |
| 6  | transmission, the weekly procurement process, and            |
| 7  | participant funding. The Commission's approval is largely    |
| 8  | predicated on the predictive benefits of this package.       |
| 9  | Particularly of the WPP, Nora, I think, has very             |
| 10 | eloquently talked about the hope that these benefits will    |
| 11 | come to fruition and the fact that there are metrics in this |
| 12 | order to enable us to monitor what those benefits are and    |
| 13 | ensure that it achieves its objective.                       |
| 14 | I'd like to emphasize the other two elements:                |
| 15 | the independent coordinator of transmission and participant  |
| 16 | funding. I believe that participant funding can bring value  |
| 17 | to the public interest if it's properly and fairly           |
| 18 | implemented. It needs to be done well and it needs to be     |
| 19 | done fairly. Then the public interest could be               |
| 20 | substantially benefited in the long run. If it isn't done    |
| 21 | well, it could result in the flight of investment dollars    |
| 22 | from the generation sector at a time when that investment is |
| 23 | still sorely needed.   |
| 24 | So to properly and fairly implement participant              |
| 25 | funding, you must have two things: first, you need an        |

- independent entity to make the determinations as to which
  costs should be participant funded and which should be
  rolled into a transmission provider's rates. I believe that
- 4 Entergy's ICT proposal, with the modifications we've
- 5 proposed, meets this requirement.

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The second requirement is an on-going requirement associated with one of the things the participant must get in exchange for funding a transmission upgrade. In order to avoid essentially double-charging for transmission service, which would clearly be unfair, an entity that directly funds a transmission grid upgrade beyond the point of interconnection is entitled to some type of transmission-related right in exchange. In RTO markets, this has been a financial transmission right and Entergy's proposal here essentially posits a financial hedge as well, though it differs in many other respects from the RTO FTR's because of the different circumstances present here.

The value of this type of right can be greatly influenced by minor changes in the operation of the grid that could be difficult to detect. So in other words, minor changes in operation could preserve or eliminate the value of this type of right. In the past, we have only approved this type of funding mechanism in RTO regions where the independent operation of the grid eliminates any incentive to make such minor changes in ways that would

inappropriately advantage one competitor at the expense of another.

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The ICT's independent oversight of Entergy's operation of the grid meets this on-going requirement here, at least while the ICT remains in operation. If, for any reason, the ICT were to cease to function and participant funding is to be continued, the ICT would have to be replaced by another structure of equal protective value.

For the present, once the ICT begins operation and the WPP, both the up-front and on-going requirements will be in place. And I am voting for this proposal, including its participant funding mechanism, on that basis.

Again, I'd like to add my thanks to Nora's to the Staff, who has worked long, very long and hard with us to achieve an order that I'm very happy to sign on to.

CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Let me add my compliments to the Staff for their hard work here. Both the Staff who ended up finishing this order, as well as the ones that started it a number of months ago. Everyone put in a lot of work on it.

Economic regulatory bodies in the United States are typically multi-member commissions, and they're designed that way to make sure a diversity of views are brought to bear on difficult regulatory matters. And a diversity of views has certainly been brought to bear on this order by

- the three offices and it has been, obviously, a difficult order for us to finish. And I'm actually a little surprised that we're acting on it today, but I'm also relieved at the same time.

  It's probably true that the three offices have
  - It's probably true that the three offices have spent more time on this order than any of the other orders we've acted on in recent months; that's somewhat surprising to say. I think it's literally true, but surprising nonetheless. In fact, this order was so difficult, that some of the Staff who began to work at it have since left the Commission and one even left the country.
- 12 (Laughter.)

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- 13 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: I don't want to suggest a
  14 causal relationship --
- 15 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: It's a feeling.
- 16 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: In this area, it's probably fair to say we started with three different positions and 17 18 we've slowly worked towards consensus. I think that's a 19 tribute to the collegial way at the Commission and the current Commission approaches issues. The order from my 20 point of view is not perfect; it's probably not perfect from 21 22 my colleagues' point of view. We all made compromises -- I I think we all did. But we really approached it in 2.3 24 good faith and I'm very happy to vote for this order.
- I think it really shows the Commission acting in

| 1  | the best way, in a collegial way, in good faith, slowly      |
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| 2  | narrowing differences and ultimately looking to avoid        |
| 3  | dissent and looking for compromise and consensus.            |
| 4  | Let me make a few comments just on the order                 |
| 5  | itself. I won't review the substance. The Staff has          |
| 6  | provided that. I just want to explain at least my reasoning  |
| 7  | for supporting the order.                                    |
| 8  | I support the ICT because it's consistent with or            |
| 9  | superior to the OATT from my point of view. I support the    |
| 10 | ICT because I think it will result in improved transparency, |
| 11 | higher-quality transmission service for Entergy's            |
| 12 | transmission customers, improved access to the grid, and     |
| 13 | fewer complaints about undue discrimination and preference   |
| 14 | in Entergy's transmission service at least those are my      |
| 15 | reasons for supporting the ICT.                              |
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| Т  | The ICT should facilitate transmission investmen            |
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| 2  | by virtue of its involvement in transmission planning.      |
| 3  | We reviewed the ICT under Section 205 of the                |
| 4  | Federal Power Act. The legal standard in there is a just    |
| 5  | and reasonable standard, so, really, essentially, the legal |
| 6  | question is, is the ICT just and reasonable?                |
| 7  | I think that since it is an improvement on the              |
| 8  | OATT and goes beyond the OATT, it's a fairly easy legal     |
| 9  | matter to conclude that the ICT is just and reasonable.     |
| 10 | This is the third ICT Order approved by the                 |
| 11 | Commission in different months. The others had different    |
| 12 | acronyms, different appellations, but it's essentially the  |
| 13 | third ICT Order we've approved, going back to December.     |
| 14 | That doesn't mean that ICT is a new fashion at              |
| 15 | the Commission. It is an experiment, the jury's still out   |
| 16 | on the ICT.   |
| 17 | It probably will result in improvement in the               |
| 18 | quality of transmission service, but only time will tell.   |
| 19 | In this case, it's an experiment authorized for four years, |
| 20 | and it is a promising experiment, but really, ultimately,   |
| 21 | only time will tell.  |
| 22 | With respect to participant funding, there's                |
| 23 | really little question that the Commission has the legal    |
| 24 | authority to approve participant funding proposals, both    |
| 25 | inside RTOs and outside RTOs.                               |

1 There really has been a perception, though, that the Commission would only consider to spend funding in RTO 2 3 regions. The argument was that we had the discretion to do 4 otherwise, but that we refused to exercise that discretion. I think the action we're taking here today, as 5 well as the Guidance Order that the Commission issued last 6 May, shows that the Commission recognizes that it not only 7 8 has the legal authority, but is willing to approve funding 9 proposals outside RTO regions, under the right circumstances. 10 11 I think the right circumstances are presented in Entergy's service territory, currently. 12 I look forward to looking at the final ICT 13 agreement, which we'll see in weeks or months. 14 I'm not sure 15 Within 60 days. 16 MR. RODGERS: CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Thank you. But I think it's 17 18 important that the Commission be careful not to make changes 19 to the ICT agreement that would turn the ICT into a public 20 utility or an enable us to turn it into a public utility in the future. 21 22 That's something that will be a flash point for I think, ultimately, it would be unacceptable 23 the states. 24 to the states and probably would cause the collapse of the

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TCT.

1 I think, just speaking for myself, I think we 2 should really stick with the decision that we made in the 3 Entergy Guidance Order with respect to jurisdiction, and not 4 move to reverse ourselves. With that, I'm happy to vote for the Order. 5 6 Colleagues? 7 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Aye. 8 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Aye. 9 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Aye. Thank you. And get some sleep, will you? 10 11 (Laughter.) MR. RODGERS: Mr. Chairman, if I could just 12 13 follow up on your comment a minute ago about Staff members leaving the country, there's absolutely not truth whatsoever 14 15 to the rumors that the team has had to form a support group. 16 (Laughter.) 17 CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Thank you. 18 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: That's why this one is 19 not getting cake; it's getting something else. 20 (Laughter.) SECRETARY SALAS: The final item for discussion 21 this morning is E-1, Standards for Business Practices and 22 Communication Protocols for Public Utilities. 2.3 This is a presentation by Marvin Rosenberg, Kay 24

Morice, Richard Maybry, Mike Goldenberg, and Gary Cohen.

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| 1  | MR. ROSENBERG: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and                |
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| 2  | Commissioners. E-1 is a Draft Final Rule that incorporates,  |
| 3  | by reference, into the Commission's Regulations, the first   |
| 4  | set of standards developed for the Wholesale Electric        |
| 5  | Quadrant of the North American Energy Standards Board or     |
| 6  | NAESB.   |
| 7  | This Rule represents a milestone in open access,             |
| 8  | same-time information system or OASIS standards development. |
| 9  | Until now, the Commission has relied on ad hoc working       |
| 10 | groups to develop and maintain OASIS standards.              |
| 11 | With this Rule, NAESB's Wholesale Electric                   |
| 12 | Quadrant is taking over this function.                       |
| 13 | The standards incorporated by reference, include             |
| 14 | OASIS standards that replace the Commission's existing OASIS |
| 15 | standards, new OASIS standards to facilitate OASIS           |
| 16 | transactions, and to address OASIS requirements of Order No. |
| 17 | 2003, the Large Generator Interconnection Rule, and non-     |
| 18 | OASIS business practice standards developed by NAESB, that   |
| 19 | complement NERC's Version O Reliability Standards.           |
| 20 | Each public utility will be required to comply               |
| 21 | with the standards, as of July 1, 2006, however, public      |
| 22 | utilities will not have to revise their open access          |
| 23 | transmission tariffs until they make unrelated tariff        |
| 24 | filings.   |

CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Thank you. I'll make some

| 1 | comments  |   |
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The business standards that we're approving today, should improve the efficiency of business and transactional processes and communications procedures.

I also do compliment the NERC Version 0
Reliability Standards. The standards really are the culmination of a process initiated by the Commission, in which we asked the industry to first establish a consensus industrywide standards organization for the wholesale electricity industry, and for that body to develop business practice standards and communication protocols.

NAESB has fulfilled that role, and, with industry, has proposed a first set of standards that we incorporate by reference, with relatively minor modifications.

Significantly, by adopting these standards and through the development of the NAESB consensus approach, the industry will have a formal ongoing process for reviewing and upgrading the Commission's OASIS standards, as well as adopting other electricity industry business practice standards.

I just want to compliment NERC and NAESB. They have worked cooperatively and in coordination, to ensure that the NERC Reliability Standards and NAESB standards, are harmonized and eliminate duplication or inconsistencies.

| Т  | it's important that NERC and NAESB continue that             |
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| 2  | collaboration in developing appropriate standards. We rely   |
| 3  | in large part on the judgment of these two organizations, in |
| 4  | making our determinations.                                   |
| 5  | This is an area of increasing importance as the              |
| 6  | Commission reviews and ultimately approves reliability       |
| 7  | standards proposed by the ERO under our new EPAct authority. |
| 8  | Finally, I want to commend former Chairman Pat               |
| 9  | Wood for his leadership in this area. We gave him top        |
| 10 | billing, E-1, on our agenda today.                           |
| 11 | The process that resulted in the Final Rule                  |
| 12 | adopting the business practice standards and communication   |
| 13 | protocols for the electricity industry, began under Chairman |
| 14 | Wood in December of 2001.                                    |
| 15 | I'm pleased we are taking the final step today.              |
| 16 | If Pat is watching over the website, I want to tell him that |
| 17 | this one is for him.   |
| 18 | (Laughter.)  |
| 19 | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: I'm pleased to vote for the               |
| 20 | rule. Colleagues? Comments?                                  |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER KELLY: I think it's important to                |
| 22 | emphasize the amazing accomplishment that's here. It's the   |
| 23 | last presentation today, but it's an example of the last not |
| 24 | being the least.   |

This process of building consensus, is a very

- long one and a hard one. The standards that were adopted,
- were supported by a consensus of the five industry segments:
- 3 Transmission, generation, market or brokers, distribution,
- 4 and load-serving entities, and end users.
- 5 That is a terrific accomplishment. I'd like to
- 6 thank NAESB for its contribution to making electric policy
- 7 better.
- 8 COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: I just want to add to
- 9 that, because I think NAESB are often the unsung heroes.
- don't think there's any more miserable job -- well, maybe
- ours -- but in trying to reconcile and bring commercial
- 12 standards up to speed, and that will be more challenging as
- 13 NERC develops its standards and then continues to refine
- 14 them.
- The leadership at NAESB and current leadership at
- NERC, I think, have rather quickly gotten even more
- 17 effective, which will be, as you pointed out, Mr. Chairman,
- 18 more important in the future, both in terms of the timing of
- things and moving along more quickly, but also overcoming
- 20 some barriers where it is going to be difficult to determine
- 21 if the ball is in which court.
- I think they want to resolve the debate and move
- 23 forward quickly and not get hung up on who is going to make
- the decisions. I'm pleased to support this Order, and
- that's my vote, aye.

| 1  | COMMISSIONER KELLY: Aye.                                   |
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| 2  | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Aye. There is no other                  |
| 3  | business, other than setting a meeting time for the closed |
| 4  | meeting. Is 1:00 good?                                     |
| 5  | COMMISSIONER BROWNELL: Works for me.                       |
| 6  | CHAIRMAN KELLIHER: Thank you, this meeting is              |
| 7  | over.  |
| 8  | (Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the open session was            |
| 9  | concluded.)  |
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